Harold Weisberg Hyattstown, Md. 20734
July 18, 1966

Mr. Stephen Barber
c/o The Sunday Telegraph
Fleet Street
London EC4, England

Dear Stephen,

Your letter of July 12 from Honolulu is a great favor. I have written my agent in London relaying your intelligence about the Lane book. I do hope you get back to London before they reach a final decision.

I am inclined to think that Lane's are the more aggressive publishers, both in the US and in England. They have arranged for his book to be an alternate Book of the Month Clubs selection, something Viking did not do with Inquest. Of course, this could be because Inquest has the character of yesterday's unrefrigerated milk toast.

There is no way of evaluating these things, but from two different seemingly dependable sources, one in the trade and one a business acquaintaine of a vice president of World, I learn that they are not concerned about Inquest, which they describe as without character, or Lane's book, which they term a "bomb", but - and they say it is incredible - about WHITEWASH. World is publishing Leo Sauvage's book. It is very well written, but is superficial. They apparently feel at World that mine, which is by far the most complete, will hurt them more because it is and that Lane's personal qualities will not help the sale of his book. As perhaps you recall, there have been numerous comparisons of WHITEWASH and his book by both editors and several of your dons. All I am concerned about is the fact that he does have aggressive publishers. It is more than possible he has fatal flaws in his work. It was the subject of supposedly exhaustive reorganization by a crew of British scholars, but if their acquaintanceship with the subject matter is no more dependable than Trevor-Roper's, I do not see how they could have eliminated his errors. Mr. Trevor-Roper, you may recall, apologized for being right!

We breeze merrily along. The 5,000 copies are gone and the next 5,000 will be ready some time next week. Epstein (who I have dubbed Inepstein) acts as though he has two heads, shunning all appearances. He couldn't back out of Today, hard as he tried, but that is it. He has been invited to appear on all the shows I arranged for myself and he, quite properly, refused them all. He just doesn't know his subject and he comes through with all the force of a limp rag. My most recent show, taped last Thursday night, grew from a scheduled quarter segment of a four-part, two-hour show on WNEW-TV into the full two hours, to be aired as a special. Someone intending an unkindness stacked the participating audience with about a half-dozen antagonistic lawyers. They made all the mistakes - bad manners, false statements, attempted intimidation and worse, they attempted to overwhlem me with their number. Especially because they had not done their homework was it easy ti clobber them, and I did. This will apparently be a quite dramatic things when aired. Virtue triumphant and all of that. You know about my all-night stint on the Long John Nebel show on the key NVC station in New York, I believe. I was asked to make a ten-minute broadcast by phone on a San Fransisco station the Wednesday before the fourth of July. As soonas I started the switchboard started to jump. The show lasted for two hours, and I've agreed to a return. My Calif. distributor describes the book as "wildfire". He's ordering 500 about every six days. I've got five more TV broadcasts scheduled and a four-hour talk program on the largest station in Philadelphia, where Arlen Specter is now the DA. Gerry Priestland came up last Wednesday, made a film that was aired Thursday, and tells me BBC liked it. He is at least as fine a fellow as you said. Harbord has closed a nice deal for serialization in Arriba, Madrid, and has a request for an option from a large Italian publisher, who is reading the book, and he has made some contacts on the continent.

Mainichi sent the book to the home office, with a favorable recommendation, before Hatano left for New York, where he is now stationed. There is some interest in Paris that I cannot evaluate, but there were about 5 hours of interviews and picture taking. Their NY correspondent tells me Rovere was able to switch Der Spiegel's interest to Inquest, in which, of course, he has a stake.

The current New York Review has about a dozen pages, with most of the references to WHITEWASH. It is the largest stroy I have seen in that publication, with a cover on it also. I haven't had time to read it yet. The professorial author has his "own" theories. Do not be surprised if you read it and find that his "second Oswald" is a copy of "The False Oswald". There appears to be no mention of Lane or Sauvage.

You know I sent all the Commission members, the staff chiefs and the appropriate heads of executive agencies copies. I asked they either show me wrong or join me in my demand for a full and public airing. I now learn that at least two of the assistant counsel shve read the book and are without expressed complaint. I had a letter from one asking for a copy for himself!

My work on the sequel, of which you have the draft of a part on The Dubious Inquest, is proceeding remarkably well for the limited time I have been able to squeeze away from WHITEWASH. It will be, I really believe, even more shocking. I now have in my possession certain official documents and photographs that have not been published or have not been readable in the 26 volumes. They tell a really frightening story of who did what in the investigation. I can now document who destroyed what evidence, for example, prove who fudged with the pictures, of which I earlier told you, and have a fair amount of new data I would think bearing heavily on perjury and the knowledge of perjury.

Despite the odds that were initially against it, I now believe I shall break this whole thing wide open. Paperback offers for WHITEWASH are now, unsolicitedly, coming in. I am playing it cool, and will until I get a good one. I turned the first (Fawcett) down. The second, a larger company, is considering, what I do no know and do not inquire. I know they had their executives spend a day deliberating a handback offer, which I think in this country is insane, unless they can swing a book-club tiein and do it fast. Meanwhile, a rarity for a private edition, especially on in this form and with these handicaps, in amonth, without a cent for advertising, I have sold more than enough copies to pay the mechanical costs of this edition. We have been too busy to do anything but post our books, but I am confident I have recovered all the costs of promotion and distribution also, and from now on we can hope for a return on the very considerable cost of the book itself.

Not having seen you for so long, I did want to bring you up to date while thanking you for your kindness. I do hope your paper will decide to do WHITEWASH and that Harbord has been in touch with them again. He reports getting from Arriba about 40% more than his publisher friends said they'd pay. They approached me and I phoned him. Theirs was not a negotiating cable. They said merely we want to do it, cable your price, quite an endorsement.

Again, many thanks, and have a good trip.

Sincerely,